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BLACK PANTHER



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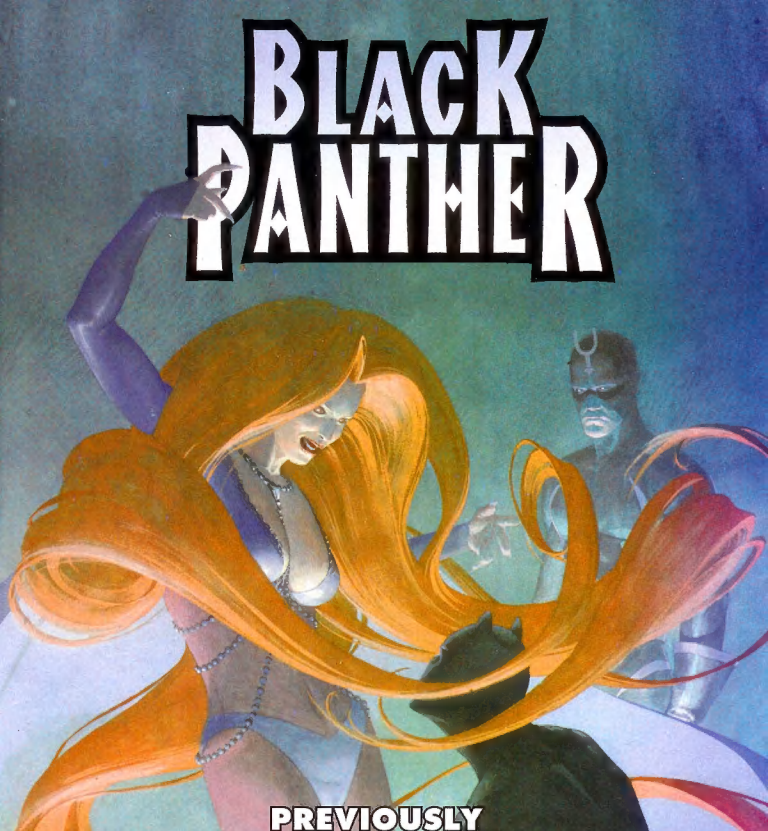


DIRECT EDITION

HUDLIN GARCIA LEISTEN MILLA

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BLACK PANTHER



PREVIOUSLY

Unfettered by the yoke of colonization, the African warrior nation of WAKANDA flourished and became a high-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise—one that makes the rest of the world seem primitive in comparison. Ruling over this kingdom are the BLACK PANTHER and his queen, STORM.

The Black Panther is more than just a head of state, the leader of a warrior cult. The Black Panther is the embodiment of the ideals of a people. While T'Challa's marriage to Storm was a happy occasion, the couple was reminded that Wakanda faces difficult times ahead. Now more than ever, Wakanda needs the Black Panther to preserve its integrity and guide its people through the political minefield created by the Civil War in the United States.

To assuage the fears of those who would see them as a threat and to ensure Wakanda's security in a world rocked by Civil War, the Black Panther and Storm thought it best to embark upon a diplomatic tour amongst the larger centers of global power. The couple's first stop was Latveria, where they were drawn into battle with their longtime adversary, Dr. Doom. Their second, the Moon, where the Inhuman royal family sought T'Challa's counsel as they prepare for war with the human race!

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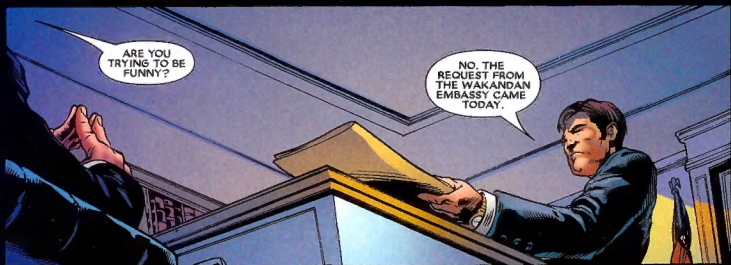


FIRST
LATVERIA, THEN
THE MOON, NOW
ATLANTIS?



BETWEEN DR.
DOOM, THE INHUMANS
AND NAMOR, IS THERE
ANY FOREIGN FOE OF THE
UNITED STATES THAT
HE *ISN'T* GOING
TO VISIT?

T'CHALLA HAS
REQUESTED AN
AUDIENCE WITH
THE PRESIDENT.



ARE YOU
TRYING TO BE
FUNNY?

NO, THE
REQUEST FROM
THE WAKANDAN
EMBASSY CAME
TODAY.



NO WAY IN HELL I'M
LETTING *THAT*
HAPPEN!

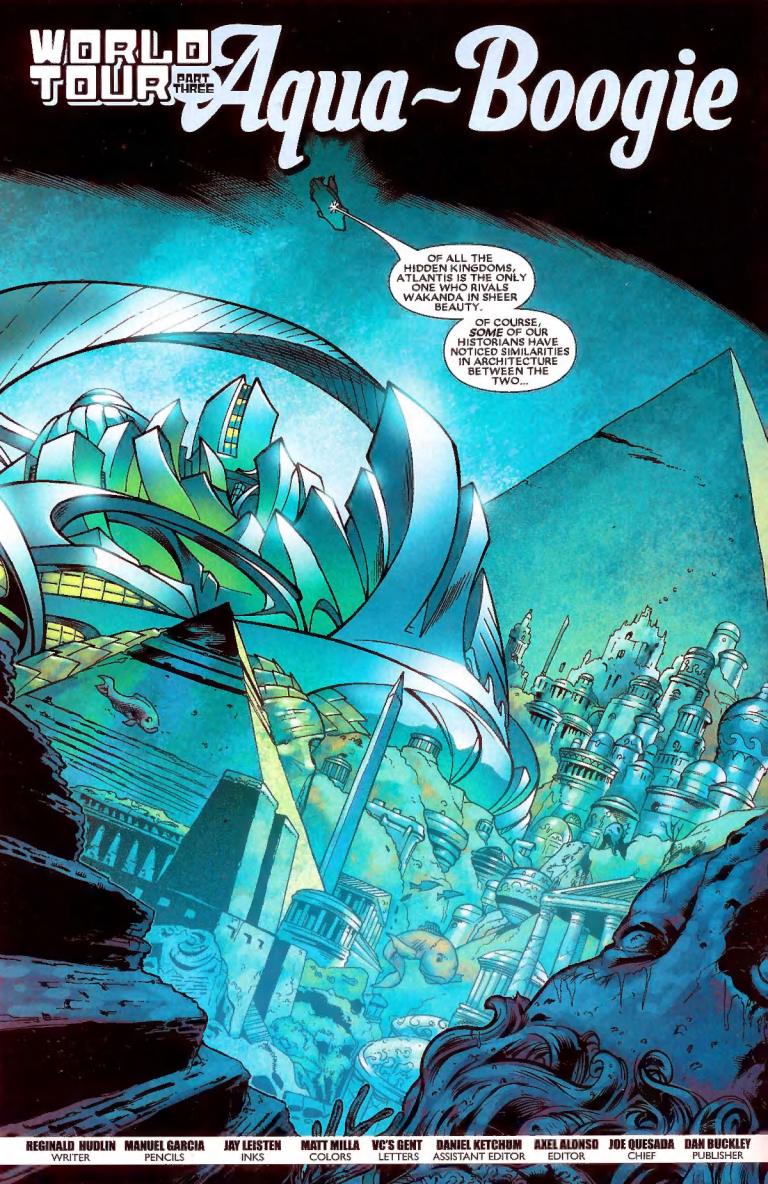
BUT SHOULDN'T
WE JUST *ASK* HIM
WHAT HE'S UP
TO...?

MEANWHILE, THIRTY-THOUSAND
LEAGUES BENEATH THE SEA...

A VOYAGE
TO THE BOTTOM
OF THE SEA IS AS
BAD AS GOING TO
OUTER SPACE!



WORLD TOUR PART THREE Aqua-Boogie



OF ALL THE HIDDEN KINGDOMS, ATLANTIS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO RIVALS WAKANDA IN SHEER BEAUTY.

OF COURSE, SOME OF OUR HISTORIANS HAVE NOTICED SIMILARITIES IN ARCHITECTURE BETWEEN THE TWO...

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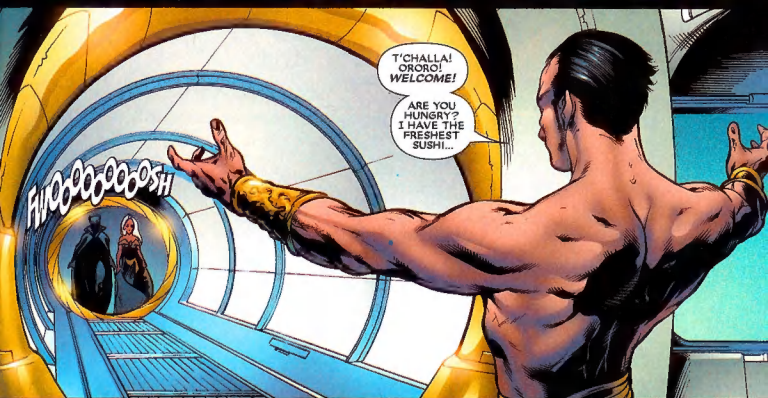
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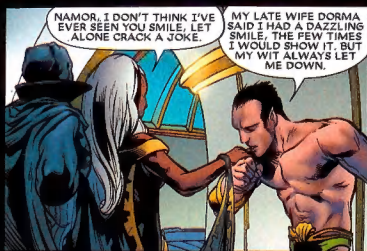


WHENEVER I GET ONE OF THESE ROYAL RECEPTIONS, I ALWAYS WONDER IF THE PEOPLE EVEN KNOW WHO WE ARE.



T'CHALLA!
ORORO!
WELCOME!

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
I HAVE THE FRESHEST SUSHI...



NAMOR. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU SMILE, LET ALONE CRACK A JOKE.

MY LATE WIFE DORMA SAID I HAD A DAZZLING SMILE. THE FEW TIMES I WOULD SHOW IT, BUT MY WIT ALWAYS LET ME DOWN.



HERE AT THE OCEAN'S FLOOR, WE CAN HAVE A PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT IS BEYOND THE DEVICES OF REED RICHARDS AND TONY STARK.

I SEE WE'RE GETTING RIGHT TO IT.

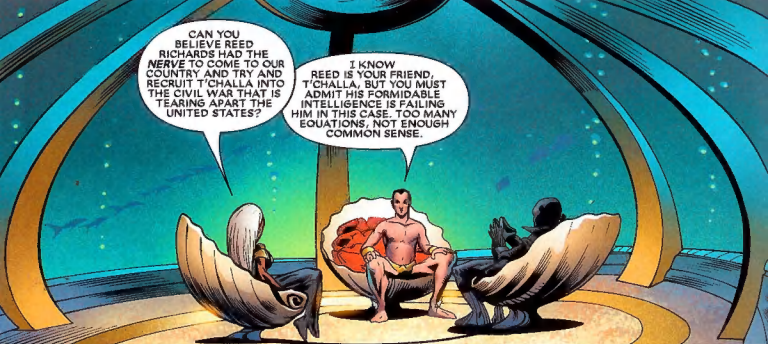
MEN DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF SMALL TALK, MY DEAR.

NAMOR...



NO OFFENSE INTENDED. YOUR WIFE IS A TRUE WARRIOR.

LET ALL THREE OF US DISCUSS THE HARD CHOICES AHEAD.

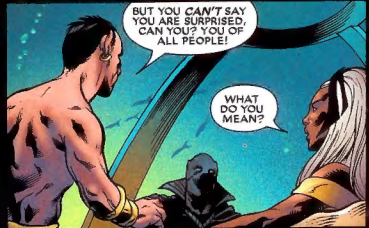


CAN YOU BELIEVE REED RICHARDS HAD THE NERVE TO COME TO OUR COUNTRY AND TRY AND RECRUIT T'CHALLA INTO THE CIVIL WAR THAT IS TEARING APART THE UNITED STATES?

I KNOW REED IS YOUR FRIEND, T'CHALLA, BUT YOU MUST ADMIT HIS FORMIDABLE INTELLIGENCE IS FAILING HIM IN THIS CASE. TOO MANY EQUATIONS, NOT ENOUGH COMMON SENSE.

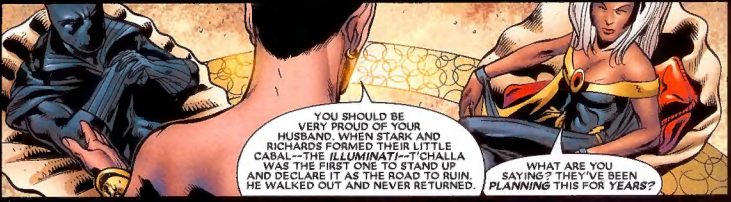


HIS STANCE IS... PROFOUNDLY DISAPPOINTING.



BUT YOU CAN'T SAY YOU ARE SURPRISED, CAN YOU? YOU OF ALL PEOPLE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF YOUR HUSBAND. WHEN STARK AND RICHARDS FORMED THEIR LITTLE CABAL--THE ILLUMINATI--T'CHALLA WAS THE FIRST ONE TO STAND UP AND DECLARE IT AS THE ROAD TO RUIN. HE WALKED OUT AND NEVER RETURNED.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THEY'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR YEARS?



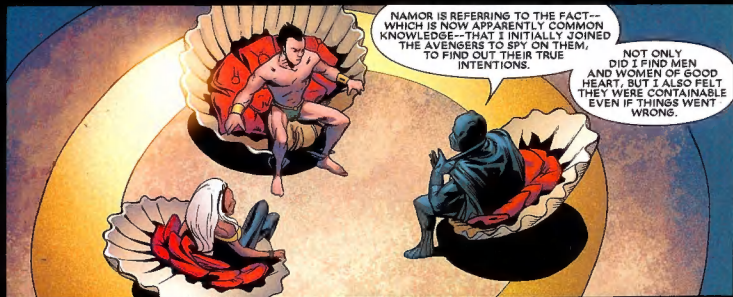
NO, NO, IT WAS A GROUP OF "SUPER POWERS"--IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD--THAT DECIDED TO BAND TOGETHER AS A SUPERSTRUCTURE BEYOND THEIR INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENCIES, SUCH AS THE AVENGERS, THE INHUMANS...

...AND YES, YOUR PROFESSOR X WAS THERE, TOO, MY DEAR...TO FACE GLOBAL THREATS.



BUT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE X-MEN, THE AVENGERS--THEY WERE ALL FOUNDED ON SIMILAR PRINCIPLES...HOW DID IT GO WRONG?

JUST ASK YOUR HUSBAND. DESPITE APPEARANCES, HE'S NOT MUCH OF A "JOINER"--EXCEPT TO KEEP HIS ENEMIES CLOSER.



NAMOR IS REFERRING TO THE FACT-- WHICH IS NOW APPARENTLY COMMON KNOWLEDGE--THAT I INITIALLY JOINED THE AVENGERS TO SPY ON THEM, TO FIND OUT THEIR TRUE INTENTIONS.

NOT ONLY DID I FIND MEN AND WOMEN OF GOOD HEART, BUT I ALSO FELT THEY WERE CONTAINABLE EVEN IF THINGS WENT WRONG.



AGAIN, A WISE MAN! I WISH I HAD HIS PATIENCE!

BUT HE COMES BY IT HONESTLY. HE GOT IT FROM HIS GRANDFATHER!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NAMOR?



WHAT? I NEVER TOLD YOU THAT STORY?

WHAT STORY?

MY FIRST TRIP TO WAKANDA.



NO. YOU DIDN'T.

OH, MY MEMORY. THOSE YEARS OF AMNESIA. I APOLOGIZE.

IT WAS DURING WORLD WAR TWO...



"CAP WAS CHASING NAZIS THROUGH DEEPEST AFRICA. THEY GOT A HEAD START, BUT THEIR GOOD LUCK WAS ABOUT TO TURN BAD."



"THEY RAN INTO WAKANDAN BORDER SECURITY FIRST. THEY WERE BEHEADED LONG BEFORE CAP CAUGHT UP TO THEM."



"I KNOW THIS STORY. THIS IS WHEN CAPTAIN AMERICA FIRST ARRIVED IN WAKANDA."

"THAT'S CORRECT, BUT WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT ALL OF US WERE IN AFRICA AT THE TIME."

"US" ... ?



"A GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO JOINED TOGETHER TO DEFEAT THE SPREAD OF FASCISM."





"THE INVADERS!"

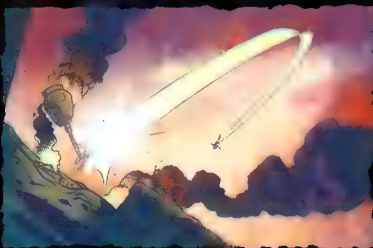
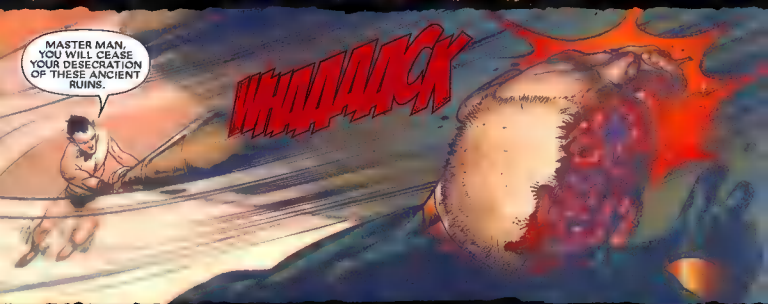
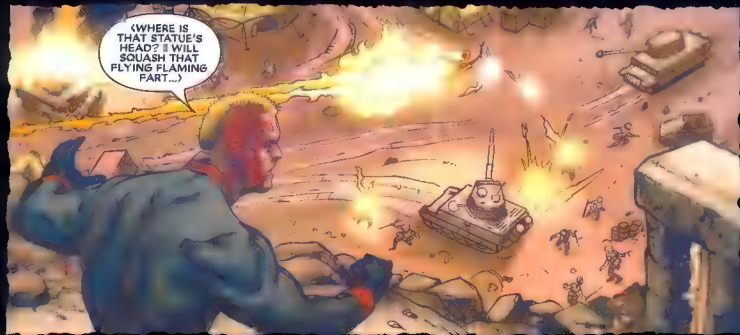


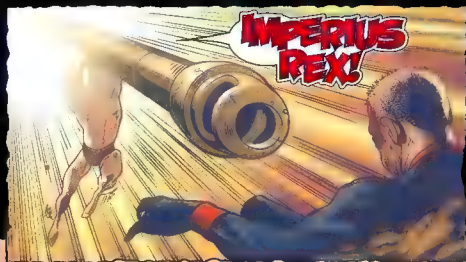
NEIN,
NEIN!



"THE SUN WAS
SO HOT, IT WAS
HARD FIGHTING
WITHOUT
DEHYDRATING..."







"SPITFIRE REALLY WAS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEMBERS. TO BE HIT WITH ANYTHING THAT FAST, THAT MANY TIMES..."

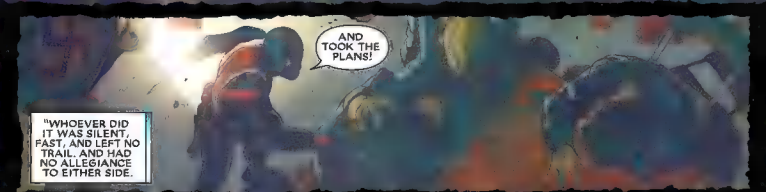




"MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BRITISH COUNTERPART, UNION JACK, MADE HIS WAY TOWARD THE COMMAND TENT."

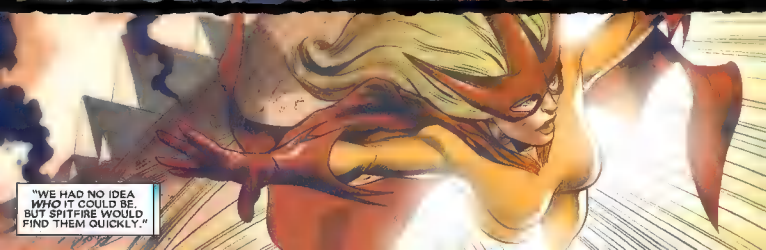


BLAST!
SOMEONE
BEAT US
HERE.



AND
TOOK THE
PLANS!

"WHOEVER DID
IT WAS SILENT,
FAST, AND LEFT NO
TRAIL. AND HAD
NO ALLEGIANCE
TO EITHER SIDE."



"WE HAD NO IDEA
WHO IT COULD BE.
BUT SPITFIRE WOULD
FIND THEM QUICKLY."





CALM
DOWN.

COME OUT,
OR I'LL RIP THE
DOOR OFF!



AND
WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

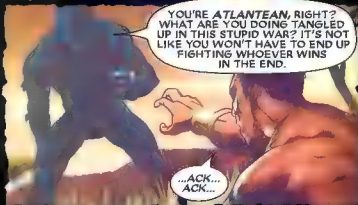
HM?



POOF



NOW THAT
I HAVE YOUR
ATTENTION...
LET'S TALK.



YOU'RE ATLANTEAN, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TANGLED
UP IN THIS STUPID WAR? IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU WON'T HAVE TO END UP
FIGHTING WHOEVER WINS
IN THE END.

...ACK...
...ACK...



THIS WATER
WILL COUNTERACT
THE EFFECT OF THE
POWDER, BUT YOU
HAVE TO PROMISE
NOT TO TRY AND
RIP MY HEAD OFF
AFTERWARDS, OKAY?
BECAUSE WE HAVE
A LOT MORE OF
THIS POWDER IF
YOU DO.

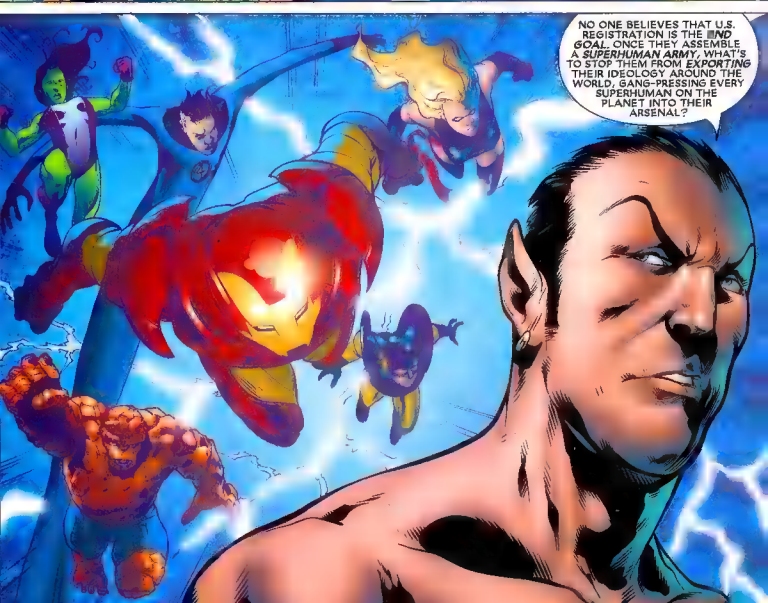
DEAL?

...OKAY
DEAL...

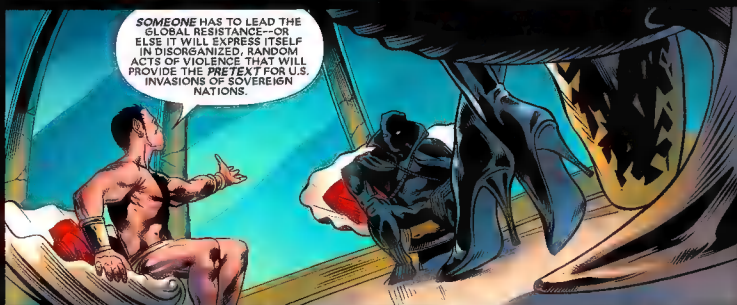
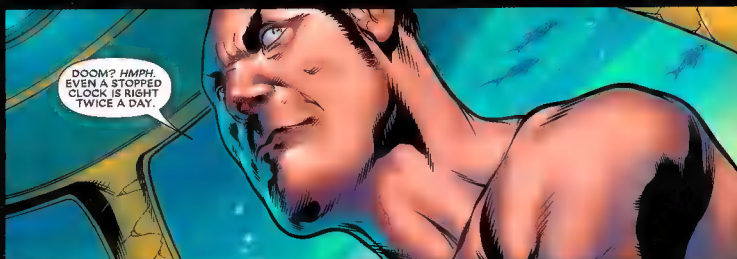


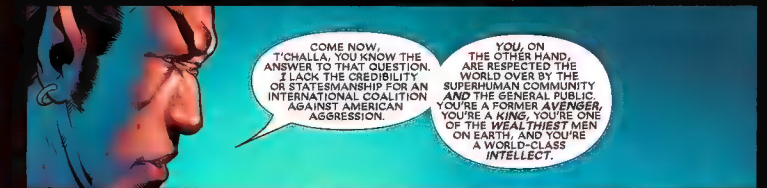


THE WORLD ■
WATCHING WHAT'S GOING
ON IN AMERICA WITH HORROR.
THEY HAVE NOT RESPONDED YET
BECAUSE THEY HOPE IT WILL SORT
ITSELF OUT. BUT IF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S
EFFORTS CANNOT CURB TONY STARK
AND REED RICHARDS' SCHEMES,
THEN A GLOBAL RESPONSE
IS CERTAIN.



NO ONE BELIEVES THAT U.S.
REGISTRATION IS THE **FINAL**
GOAL. ONCE THEY ASSEMBLE
A SUPERHUMAN ARMY, WHAT'S
TO STOP THEM FROM EXPORTING
THEIR IDEOLOGY AROUND THE
WORLD, GANG-PRESSING EVERY
SUPERHUMAN ON THE
PLANET INTO THEIR
ARSENAL?





COME NOW, T'CHALLA, YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. I LACK THE CREDIBILITY OR STATESMANSHIP FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION AGAINST AMERICAN AGGRESSION.

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE RESPECTED THE WORLD OVER BY THE SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. YOU'RE A FORMER AVENGER, YOU'RE A KING, YOU'RE ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST MEN ON EARTH, AND YOU'RE A WORLD-CLASS INTELLECT.



MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU'RE A MAN OF UNSHAKABLE MORAL FIBER. YOU SAY WHAT YOU MEAN, AND MEAN WHAT YOU SAY, AND YOU'RE ALWAYS READY TO BACK IT UP WITH ACTION OR SACRIFICE.

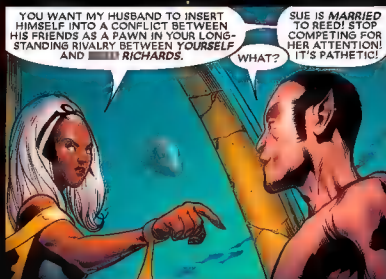
YOU WERE MEANT FOR THIS, T'CHALLA.



CHARMING WORDS, NAMOR.

THAT'S WHY I MARRIED HIM. BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.

YOU KNOW THEY ARE TRUE.



YOU WANT MY HUSBAND TO INSERT HIMSELF INTO A CONFLICT BETWEEN HIS FRIENDS AS A PAWN IN YOUR LONG-STANDING RIVALRY BETWEEN YOURSELF AND ■■■■■ RICHARDS.

SUE IS MARRIED TO REED! STOP COMPETING FOR HER ATTENTION! IT'S PATHETIC!

WHAT?



A WOMAN'S LOGIC IS A MIRACLE TO BEHOLD.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO DENY YOUR FASCINATION WITH HER.

DO YOU NOT SEE THE LARGER STAKES HERE?

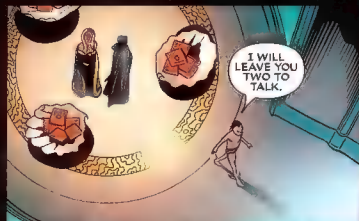
I SEE YOU PUTTING MY HUSBAND ■■■■■ HARM'S WAY FOR NO REASON.



ORORO, STOP. YOU DON'T MEAN THAT. YOU'RE JUST BEING PROTECTIVE--AND I APPRECIATE THAT.

WE JUST GOT MARRIED! WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A MOMENT OF PEACE?

YOU ARE MY WIFE. WE WILL MAKE THIS DECISION TOGETHER.



I WILL
LEAVE YOU
TWO TO
TALK.



DID YOU DESIRE
ANYTHING,
SIRE?

YES. REMIND
ME NEVER TO
REARRY.



OKAY, REAL
TALK. WHAT'S
REALLY
DISTURBING
YOU ABOUT
THIS?

YOU MEAN BESIDES VIOLATING
THE NON-AGGRESSION POLICY
THAT IS A CORNERSTONE OF
OUR NATION'S HISTORY
FOR CENTURIES?



IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVEN'T WORKED
AROUND THAT IN THE PAST. WAKANDA
SECRETLY FUNDED MANDELA'S ANTI-
APARTHEID MOVEMENT FOR YEARS--
AND THAT'S THE ONLY ONE II
KNOW ABOUT.

FOR THAT
MATTER, YOUR TIME
WITH THE AVENGERS
COULD BE CONSIDERED
WAKANDA WORKING WITH
AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION
OF UNREGULATED SUPER-
BEINGS-- WHICH ISN'T THAT
MUCH DIFFERENT FROM WHAT
NAMOR IS PROPOSING
NOW.



WAIT. YOU SOUND LIKE
YOU'RE READY TO TAKE
ON ALL OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
RIGHT NOW.

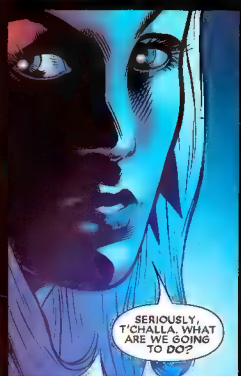
IF THAT'S
WHAT WE
DECIDE TO
DO, YES.

THEN YOUR
WHOLE THING
WITH NAMOR
WAS...?



OH, THAT.
I JUST DIDN'T LIKE
HOW HE WAS TRYING
TO PLAY YOU. LIKE HE'S
MALCOLM X TO YOUR
MARTIN LUTHER
KING.

SOMEBODY'S
BEEN READING THEIR
WEDDING GIFT FROM
THEIR GRANDFATHER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU
NEVER READ THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF--



SERIOUSLY,
T'CHALLA, WHAT
ARE WE GOING
TO DO?



I'M SKEPTICAL ABOUT NAMOR'S IDEA THAT I AM THE NATURAL LEADER OF THE GLOBAL RESISTANCE.

DON'T BE MODEST. HE'S TOTALLY RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RECRUIT CAPTAIN BRITAIN FOR THE ROLE?



NOTHING ABOUT BRIAN MAKES ME THINK HE'S GOING AGAINST QUEEN AND COUNTRY. AND IF PARLIAMENT HASN'T PASSED THEIR VERSION OF THE REGISTRATION ACT YET, THEY SOON WILL.

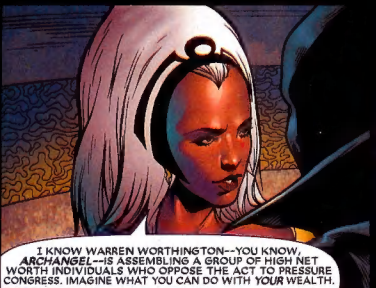


BUT WE SHOULD TRY TO RECRUIT HIM, DON'T YOU THINK?



SO YOU HAVE DECIDED TO DO IT!

YOU KNOW, WE COULD VERY LIKELY LOSE. I MEAN, LOOK AT OUR POTENTIAL "ALLIES": NAMOR? THE INHUMANS? DOCTOR DOOM? NONE OF THEM HAS EVER WON A FIGHT AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR... LET ALONE AN ENTIRE SUPER-POWERED ARMY.



I KNOW WARREN WORTHINGTON--YOU KNOW, ARCHANGEL--IS ASSEMBLING A GROUP OF HIGH NET WORTH INDIVIDUALS WHO OPPOSE THE ACT TO PRESSURE CONGRESS. IMAGINE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR WEALTH.



YES, BUT...

PLUS YOU'LL HAVE CAPTAIN AMERICA ON YOUR SIDE! AND HE ALWAYS WINS!



IF WE LOSE,
NOT ONLY WILL
I BE THE FIRST REGENT
EVER TO LOSE CONTROL
OF MY KINGDOM, BUT
WE WOULD BE LOCKED
IN A PRISON IN THE
NEGATIVE ZONE.



ARE THEY DOING
THAT? LOOKING
UP HEROES? THEIR
FRIENDS, THEIR
COMRADES, IN
THE NEGATIVE
ZONE?!

AND REED HAD
THE NERVE TO
TRY AND RECRUIT
YOU INTO THIS
MADNESS?



THE SOUND
OF RAISED VOICES
MAKES ME THINK A
DECISION HAS BEEN
MADE.

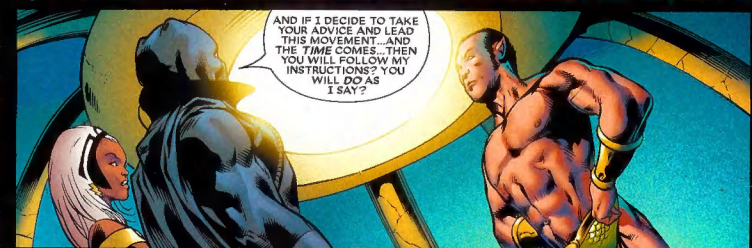


AND
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
ABOUT ALL
THIS?



I KNEW A
DAY LIKE THIS
WOULD COME.
I HAVE BEEN
PREPARED.

TO LEARN JUST HOW
PREPARED, SEE
WOLVERINE #42-47.
-EDITOR



AND IF I DECIDE TO TAKE
YOUR ADVICE AND LEAD
THIS MOVEMENT...AND
THE TIME COMES...THEN
YOU WILL FOLLOW MY
INSTRUCTIONS? YOU
WILL DO AS
I SAY?

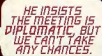
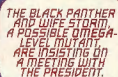


YES.



THEN
LET FOES OF
FREEDOM
BEWARE...

...THE BLACK
PANTHER WILL
DEFEND THE
OPPRESSED!



N E X T :
**BLACK
PANTHER**
vs.
IRON MAN